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Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc.

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PREHISTORIC ART - ARCHAEOLOGY '83

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GENUINE INDIAN RELIC SOCIETY, INC.
FOUNDED IN 1964

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CONTENTS

EDITORIAL—Counting Coup.....John Baldwin.....page 114
Fluted Points of Pennsylvania.....Gary L. Fogelman.....118
Michigan Relics Misrepresented-Ohio Trophy Axes.....John Baldwin.....134
Pottery Repair by the Indian.....George W. Castell.....142
Special Notices.....144

Cover Photo

Fluted point found in 1888 near Bartlett, Shelby County, Tennessee, and originally collected by Dr. Leon Richmond. Material is glossy mottled bluish colored flint. Triple fluted on both sides. Length 5⅜ inches.

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The specific objective of the society is to further the study and understanding of the history and artifacts of Prehistoric Man and to develop this by providing a medium of publication for related material and articles of interest by both professional and amateur archaeologists.

EDITORIAL

COUNTING COUP

There is a political definition of Coup which has to do with the taking of power, or the overthrow of a government, a change in political views and a change in political supporters. This kind of coup has been and is practiced to varying degrees by relic collectors. If you didn't get a relic you were promised and someone else did, or if you did get a relic and later found out it was a fake, you are probably the victim of a coup in terms of its modern definition; and so life goes.

Victim, perpetrator or innocent bystander, you, too, can count coup. Since our interest is in Indian relics, we are going to use the original Indian meaning, condense it to "Put a feather in your bonnet" and show you how to effectively use coup counting in your collecting. In a word: "DOCUMENTATION." If you thought I was going to give you a plan to axe your fellow collector or the names and addresses of all the fake makers, agers and sellers, you were wrong. Read on! The program I offer here is more valuable to your relics than anything ever before offered.

This coup counting is documentation made fun. This is how it works. Coup was often remembered and signified by a feather. Since eagle feathers are outlawed, and unfasionable, and besides, tickle the nose, we are going to substitute gold stars. Bonnets are effeminate and also out of fashion, so for the bonnet we are going to substitute a paper folder with several sheet protectors, hence called a booklet. One is qualified to have a booklet by the owning, finding or by the acquiring of any other than a common authentic Indian relic. A good photograph and a written history start the booklet. It's kind of like an elaborate card file. Steve Hart of Fountaintown, Indiana, and I recently agreed that feathers, coup, or gold stars; whatever; are designated by each time that particular relic is published. That's the whole idea. Your variation of it is just as correct as mine, just as long as documentation is the end result. Collect gold stars, count coup.

I do my documentation books like this. I buy a professional binder. On the cover I put a label with the relic's number and name or description. Inside the cover I attach a large professional color photograph. The first and second pages are the Genuine Indian Relic Society's authentication certificate. The third page I call "HISTORY." It sometimes is more than one page long and resembles a diary about the relic, including prices, how I got it, who owned it, exactly what I think of it, etc. The fourth page or more is a collection of professional black and white photographs featuring several views of the relic. The photo page is followed in date order with letters about the relic and most important, copies of where it is documented. Modern copy machines reproduce published photos to near likeness. Each place the relic is pictured or written about represents a page in the booklet. The last page I title "COUP SHEET." Each time the relic is pictured or information about it is published, that is one coup. I list the places the relic is pictured by year and by publication title and list the page it is pictured on or written about. The inside back cover displays the authentication display card. These booklets are invaluable when doing any kind of writing or research. Some of my documentation books are quite thick. Any relic that is not published several times is the target of my next article. Available relics with a lot of previous documentation are just about the only relics that interest me. Along with the aesthetic value, I've found that researching and recording the information has become one of the most meaningful parts of artform relic ownership.

I encourage everyone to do this or at least some kind of major record keeping and documentation. This is the only proven way to fight fakes and fakers. If you have a large collection, start with one or two or only ten of your best or favorite. You will be surprised with how fun it gets. You will enjoy that relic many times more than just putting finger prints on it or watching it collect dust on a shelf. The ego trip is fun, but this idea is much more far reaching than that. Think of the meaning a 70 year old booklet like I've described would hold for a relic owned and documented by Warren King Moorehead or a 50 year old booklet that was done by Edward Payne. Think what the ones you do now will mean 50 to 100 years from now.

WEBSTERS—New Collegiate Dictionary, Copyright 1977

COUP—A brilliant, sudden and usually highly successful stroke or act. As in *coup d'etat.*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ON INDIANS OF THE AMERICAS—A color illustrated report. Copyright 1955. By Matthew W. Stirling.

PAGE 48, Quote. "War to the Indians was as much a game as a way to wield power or to wreak vengence on an enemy. Killing a foe merited less than taking unnecessary risks in battle. Touching an enemy with a finger or coup stick in the midst of combat was the warriors' proudest feat. Eagle feathers worn in certain ways were badges of honor denoting rank or prestige."

PAGE 79, Quote. "I have talked with old warriors and seen the reminiscent gleam come into their eyes when describing old encounters. They spoke with undisguised admiration of their foes' appearance as they galloped past. Brilliant uniforms and martial music of bygone European armies never glamorized warfare more than the feathers, paint, and war cries of the Plains Indian.

"The mounted Indian usually rode bareback; nowhere in the world did more expert horsemen

develope. Their roving equestrian life engendered a warlike spirit. Transcending its original primary purpose of vengence or protection, warfare developed into a glorified game, a way of gaining honor and prestige, excitement and adventure.

"Like any game, it acquired definite rules and a scoring system. The ultimate object became exposing oneself to risk and danger rather than killing enemies, which was secondary.

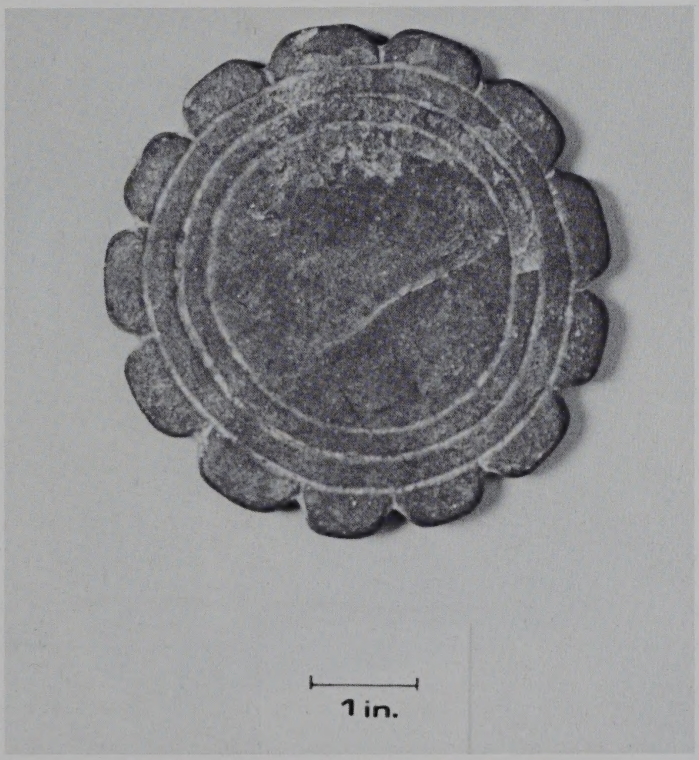
"Score was kept by 'counting coup' — a point system for brave exploits. Highest honor came from touching an enemy in combat with the hand; next was to touch him with bow or coup stick carried for the purpose. It gave greater honor to spear and dismount a foe that to shoot him with bow and arrow or gun.

"Also important were such feats as capturing an enemy's gun, taking a scalp, or stealing horses from another tribe. Witnesses were desirable, but seldom did a man falsify his achievements.

"The warrior painted a pictorial record of his exploits on his tepee or on the bare side of his buffalo robe. On certain occasions he could boast publicly of his deeds. If he had four coups or more, he was an 'ace' and might then hold tribal position of honor and leadership. He could wear certain feathers or paint his face in certain ways, and others knew at a glance what honors he held."

I've used the original Indian created scoring system and modernized it to fit today's collecting. The main changes today are that we need a witness or solid documentation in order to verify the facts as we know them. The honor system has been totally discarded due to the fakers and their ever increasingly sophisticated creations. The agers and fake sellers can create all the histories they want, and all will come to a dead end and be un-verifiable about the time that the fake was made. This is why it is so very important to record as much information as possible and keep that information with its relic.

An authentic relic will always be much more desirable when accompanied by its pedigree. Verifiable old documentation is the one thing the fakers can't create. I rest my case.



Stone disk of scalloped design. Found by C.A. Hester near Belden, in Lee County, Mississippi, in 1962. Ex. C.A. Hester Collection.

Collection of J. Neal Brown, Jackson, Mississippi

"BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL"

Three black Ohio flint masterpieces. All from the State of Ohio. These three were originally collected by three different old time collectors. LEFT: A dark black Coshocton flint dovetail. Very finely chipped. Originally collected by Dave Warner, Howe, Indiana. CENTER: A shiney black with cream and blue inclusions Mercer flint dovetail. It is 5½ inches long. Originally collected by Dr. Gordon F. Meuser, Columbus, Ohio. RIGHT: A jet black Mercer flint E Notch type point. Very finely chipped and thin. Originally collected by Frank Burdett, Springfield, Ohio. All these black beauties are a tribute to the prehistoric artisan and dean collectors of an earlier time. The creations and hopefully the names of their past owners will endure into the future.

The smaller pipe is 6⅞ inches long and 2 inches wide. The bowl is 2¾ inches high and the bowl square is 1¼ inches. The larger pipe is 7¼ inches long and 2 inches wide. The bowl is 3½ inches high and the bowl square is 1¾ inches. Both these pipes were found in Whyth County, Virginia. They represent two of the finest ever found of this type of relic. They are made from a black green steatite and some of the grave encrustation can be seen in the photo. This type of pipe is called the Monitor pipe.

Collection of William Feldser, Manheim, Pennsylvania

FLUTED POINTS OF PENNSYLVANIA

By Gary L. Fogelman, Turbotville, Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has yeilded numerous specimens of the fluted point in the past and continues to do so. In a recent report in Vol. 10 of the ARCHEOLOGY OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA was published a survey by Kurt Carr of the State Archeological Society in which a total of 256 fluted points were cited. This total is far from the actual number, and was taken from the States files and from first hand experience by Dr. Barry Kent.

Recent travels around the state viewing collections has brought quite a few more to light, and these will be highlighted and mentioned in a future publication by this author.

Those pictured are from my personal collection. Three of the total shown here are known specimens reported upon previously. The others, to my knowledge, have not been reported.

As can be seen from the photograph, styles of fluted points vary. The most common style is the Clovis type, with the Cumberland style also represented, or a variant thereof. Another style, very rare, is the specimen shown as number 1 in row three. This point fits almost exactly description and sketches of the Redstone variety of fluted point. (Guide to the identification of certain American Indian Projectile Points, Special Bulletin No. 3, Oklahoma Anthropological Society. Gregory Perino)

Another fluted variant is pictured as number 3 in row one. This lanceolate shaped variety is not well known or represented, and may be a knife form as opposed to a projectile. A similar specimen to this is pictured in PREHISTORY OF THE UPPER OHIO VALLEY by Mayer-Oakes, page 45. That specimen is from New York State.

Following is the county of find, lithic material and other pertinent information on the points pictured.

Upper Row:

1. Bucks County, brown jasper. Basal and edge grinding evident. L-2⅞" W-1".
2. Lycoming County, brown mottled jasper. No grinding evident. Slight basal damage. Former John Kock collection. Pictured in PENNSYLVANIA ARCHEOLOGIST, Vo.. XXVIII No's 3-4 1958 specimen #5.
3. Lycoming County, brown jasper. Personal find 4-10-83. No grinding evident. L-3⅛" W-1⅜". Slight damage to blade and possibly to point. Fluted one side only.
4. Northumberland County, brown jasper. Fluted both sides, basal and edge grinding. L-3¼" W-1¼".

Middle Row

1. Northumberland County, exotic olive brown flint. Fluted both sides, basal and edge grinding. L-3" W-1". Former John Kock collection. Depicted in PENNSYLVANIA ARCHEOLOGIST Vol. XXVIII No's 3-4 1958 as specimen #10.
2. Union County, Onondaga chert. Former Mathers/Kistler collections. Fluted both sides and edge and basal grinding. L-2½" W-1".
3. Lycoming County, Onondaga chert. Former Weaver and Schell collections. Fluted both sides, edge and basal grinding. Slight damage to tip. L-2⅛" W-⅞".
4. Lycoming County, Bedford County chert, brownish/green. Former Hester and Shook collections. Fluted both sides. Edge and basal grinding. L-2 7/16" W-1 5/16".

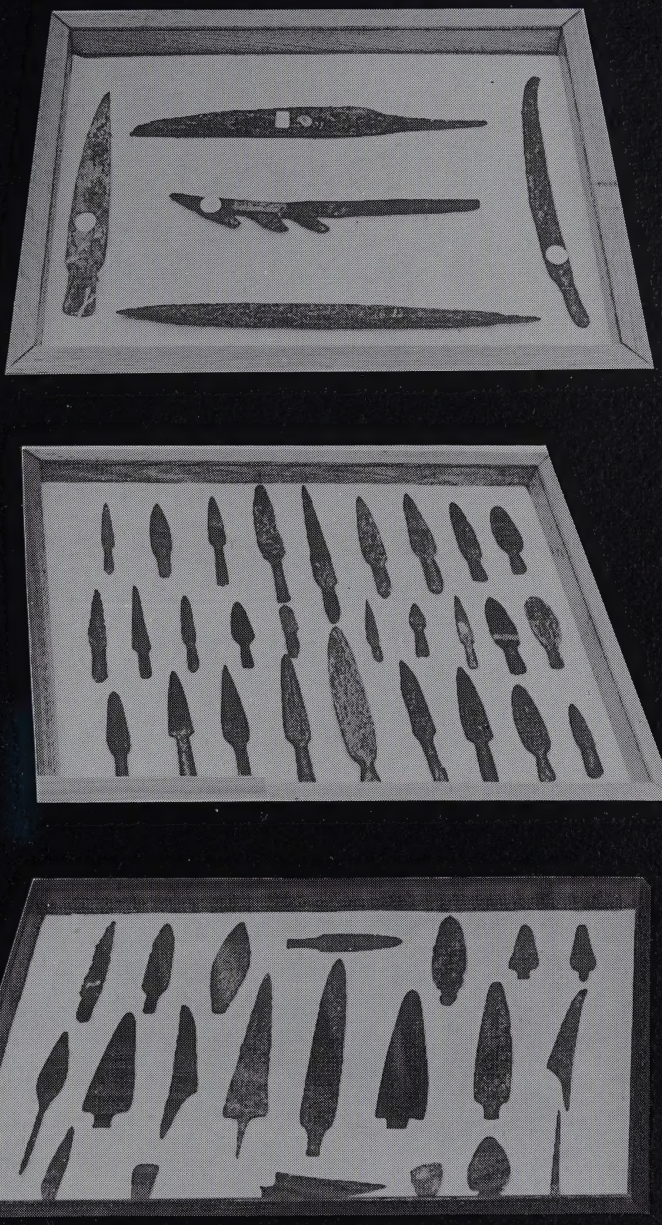
Bottom Row

1. Lycoming County, Coshockton flint, blue with white inclusions. Personal find, 9-22-82. Fluted both sides. Edge and basal grinding. L-2" W-1⅛" Damaged tip.
2. Lycoming County, black flint. Three small flutes on side shown, none on other. No grinding evident. L-1¾" W-¾" Slight damage to tip.
3. Wyoming County, Coxsackie flint, grayish/green. Fluted both sides. Basal and edge grinding. Former Ben Klime collection. L-1¼" W-¾".
4. Luzerne County, Onondaga chert. Fluted both sides. Basal and edge grinding. Former Ben Klime collection. L-1 3/16" W-1 1/16".

Collection of Gary L. Fogelman, Turbotville, Pennsylvania.

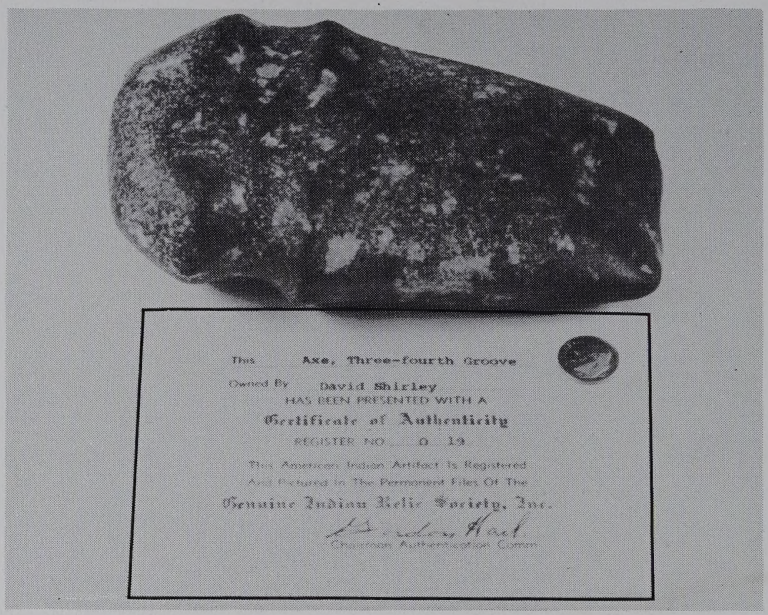
An assortment of copper relics. At each end are copper knife blades inserted into very old bone, horn or petrified ivory handles. Both came from Pennsylvania and could be historic. Next in from each side are two grooved axes. The one at the right is cupped like a gouge. CENTER TOP: A copper bracelet. MIDDLE: A small harpoon. BOTTOM: A copper axe with an iron handle. It was speculated at first that this may be a Nordic tool or battle axe. It has currently been decided that it is an early eaves trough maker's soldering hammer.

Collection of Ken Spaulding, Ionia, Michigan



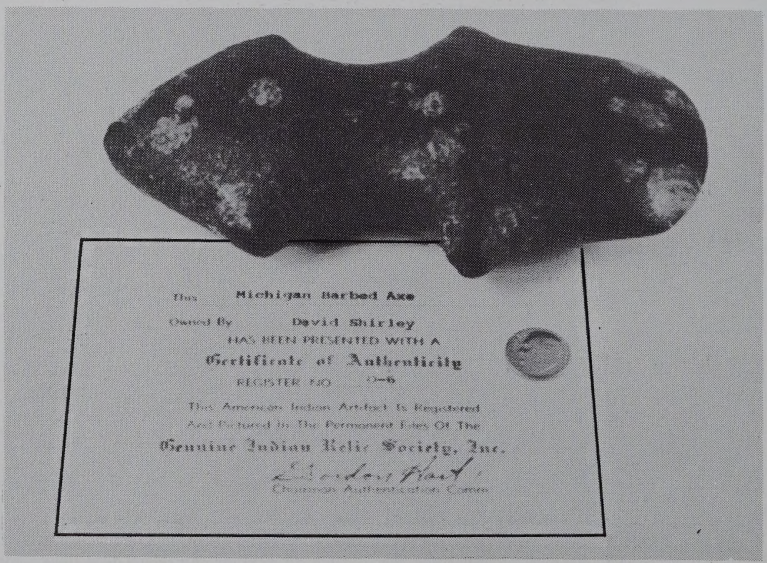
Three of the seven frames that make up the outstanding copper collection of Ken Spaulding. These fine and rare relics were found in Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois and were collected over a 50 year period.

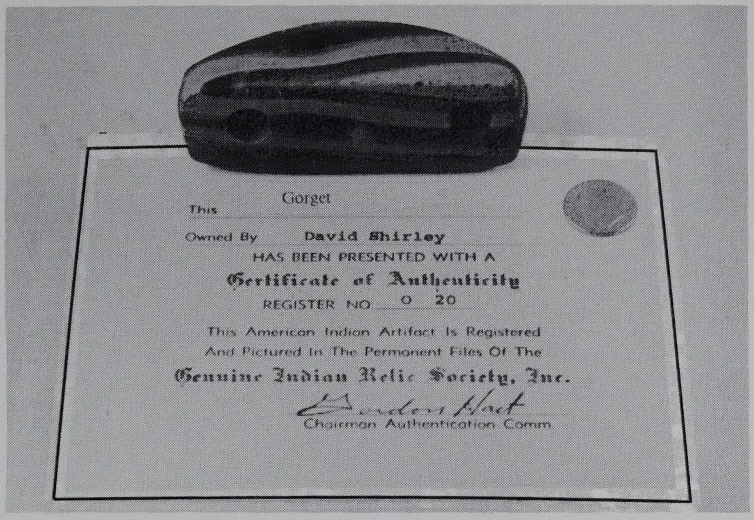
Collection of Ken Spaulding, Ionia, Michigan


This Axe, Three-fourth Groove
Owned By David Shirley
HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH A
Certificate of Authenticity
REGISTER NO. D 19
This American Indian Artifact Is Registered
And Pictured In The Permanent Files Of The
Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc.

It is a joy to receive and publish relics that are photographed as well as these. We at Prehistoric Art think that the inclusion of the Authentication Card adds a lot to the photograph. TOP: ¾ grooved axe, 3¾ by 6¾ inches made from gray and white porphyry. It was found by Frank Bishop in 1958 in Shiawassee County, Michigan. BOTTOM: Michigan barbed axe 7 by 3¾ inches wide. Black and tan porphyry. Found by Wm. Lawson in Shiawassee County, Michigan. TOP FACING PAGE: One of the finest banded slate gorgets of its type. Found in the 1950s by Bernard Green in Shiawassee County, Michigan. BOTTOM FACING PAGE: Pick bannerstone 8⅜ inches long. Banded slate. Found by Frank Bishop in 1959 in Shiawassee County, Michigan.

Collection of David Shirley, Morrice, Michigan


This Michigan Barbed Axe
Owned By David Shirley
HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH A
Certificate of Authenticity
REGISTER NO. D-6
This American Indian Artifact Is Registered
And Pictured In The Permanent Files Of The
Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc.


This Gorget
Owned By David Shirley
HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH A
Certificate of Authenticity
REGISTER NO 0 20
This American Indian Artifact Is Registered
And Pictured In The Permanent Files Of The
Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc.
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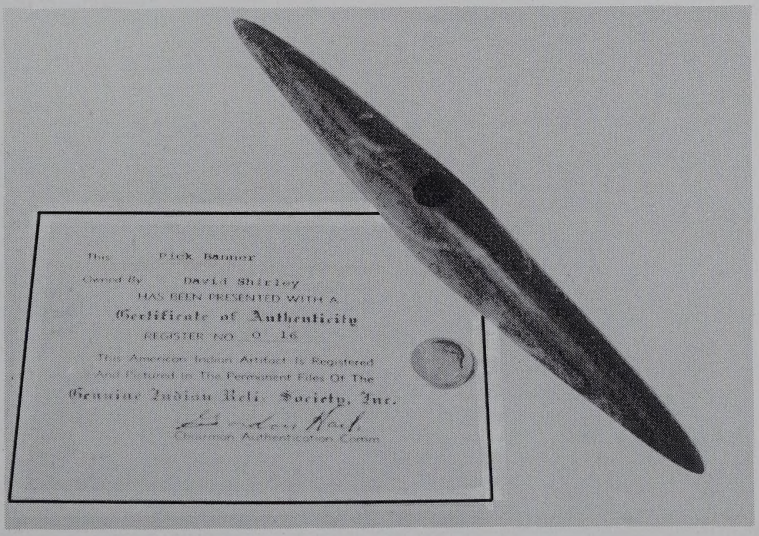

This Pick Banner
Owned By David Shirley
HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH A
Certificate of Authenticity
REGISTER NO 0 16
This American Indian Artifact Is Registered
And Pictured In The Permanent Files Of The
Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc.
Chairman Authentication Comm

A black flint creation originally collected by Dr. Stan Copeland, Columbus, Ohio. This prehistoric art classic is from Muskingum County, Ohio. It is the point that we have used as an ending symbol on the articles published in this journal for the past several years. It is featured on top of a large Adena flintridge blade that is an exact 8 inches long by 4 inches wide. The Adena was found in Steuben County, Indiana.

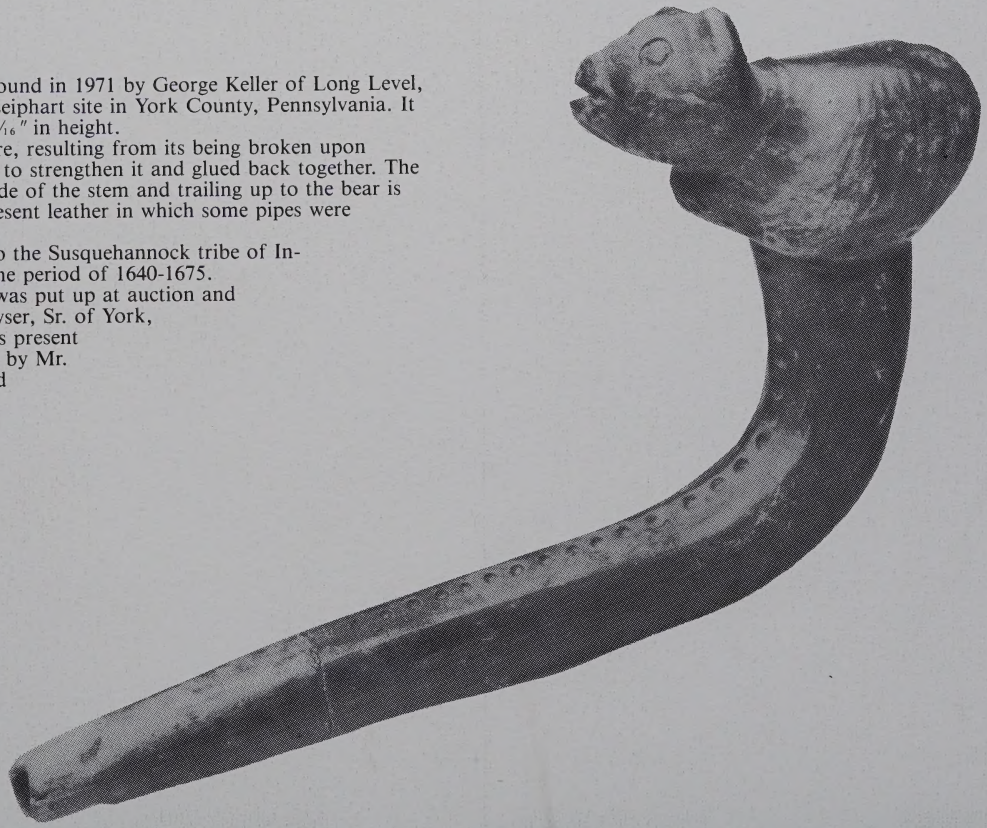
Tan flint hoe, Calhoun County, Illinois. 4½ by 4⅛ by ⅝ inches thick. This hoe is the notched variety. The blade or cutting edge is worn smooth and shows high gloss polish.

This bear effigy pipe was found in 1971 by George Keller of Long Level, Pennsylvania, on the Lloyd Leiphart site in York County, Pennsylvania. It measures 6½" in length by 3 3/16" in height.

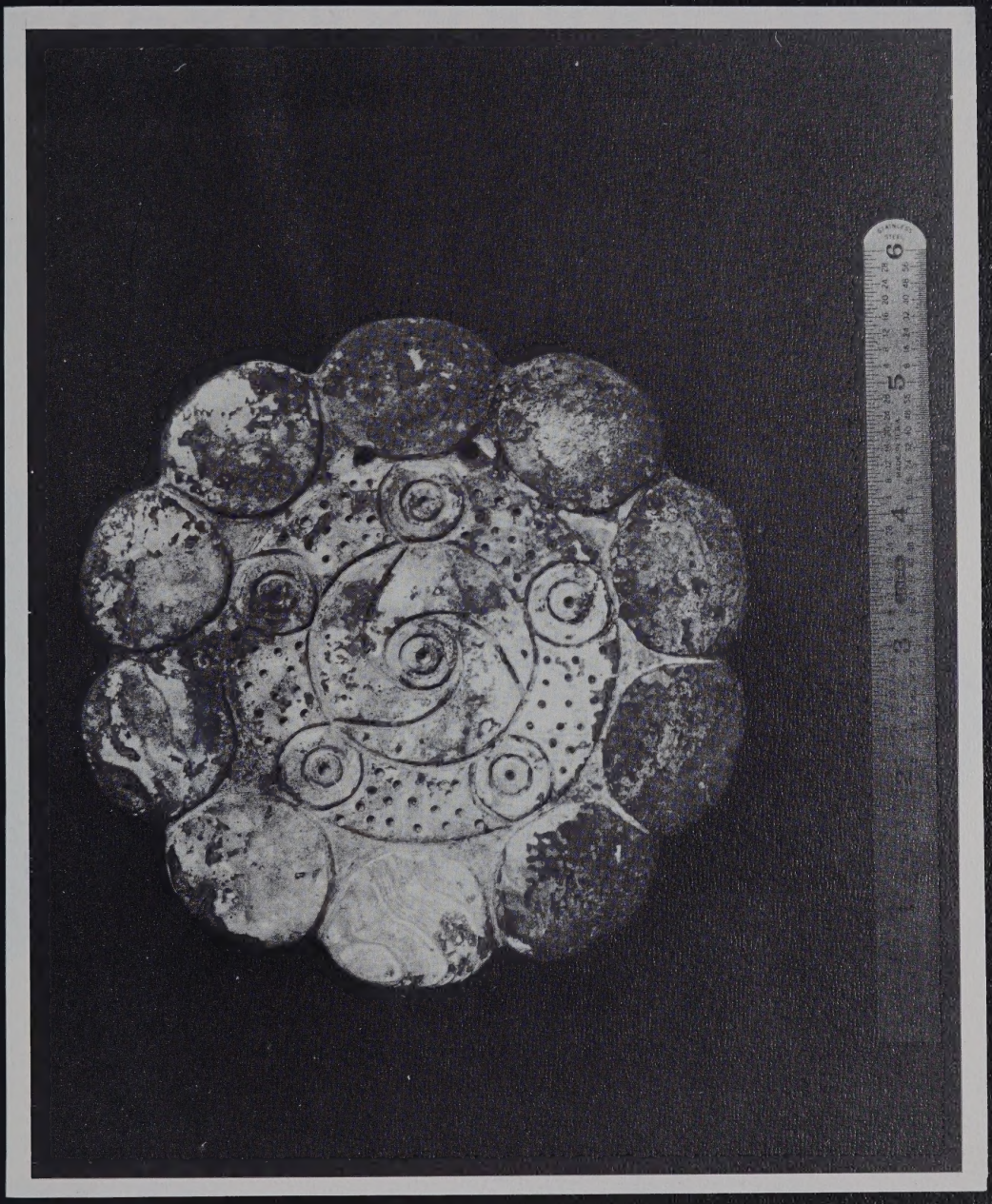
The stem contains a fracture, resulting from its being broken upon recovery. It was then plugged to strengthen it and glued back together. The decoration along the upper side of the stem and trailing up to the bear is mock stitching, made to represent leather in which some pipes were sewn.

Pipes of this style belong to the Susquehannock tribe of Indians and are dated in the time period of 1640-1675.

In the late 1970s this pipe was put up at auction and bought there by Dr. E.J. Bowser, Sr. of York, Pennsylvania. Dr. Bowser was present when this pipe was excavated by Mr. Keller and thus had first hand knowledge of it being found.



Collection of Gary L. Fogelman, Turbotville, Pennsylvania.



Shell Triskell

Found in Sevier County, Tennessee, in 1979. This shell relic is one of the finest of its type ever excavated. It retains the original gloss and hardness.

Collection of William Feldser, Manheim, Pennsylvania

UNUSUAL POL

The mace or sceptre was apparently an important symbol of the Quapaw Culture. Several examples have been uncover the mace was very symbolic and meaningful to those people. Engraved figures representing the mace also have been fou Delta area, wood was probably substituted in the manufacture of the mace. Vessel height 10½ inches.

Collection of Roy Hat

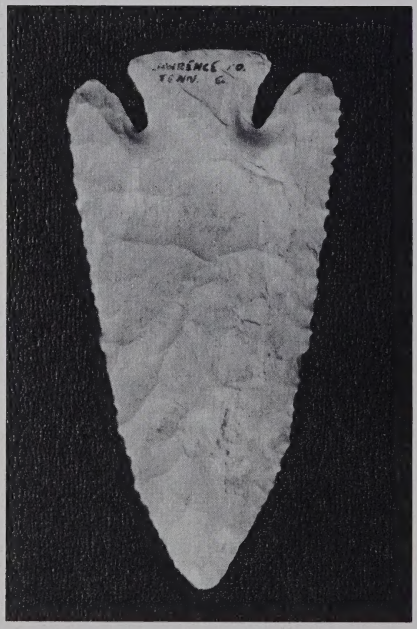
CHROME VESSEL

depicting the mace. These three views of a vessel found at the Grant Site satellite. Lee County, Arkansas, attest to the fact in the same general area on very late Mississippian Culture pottery. Due to the lack of flint or other stone materials in the

ck, West Plains, Missouri

Stewart Co., Tennessee

Orange Co., Indiana



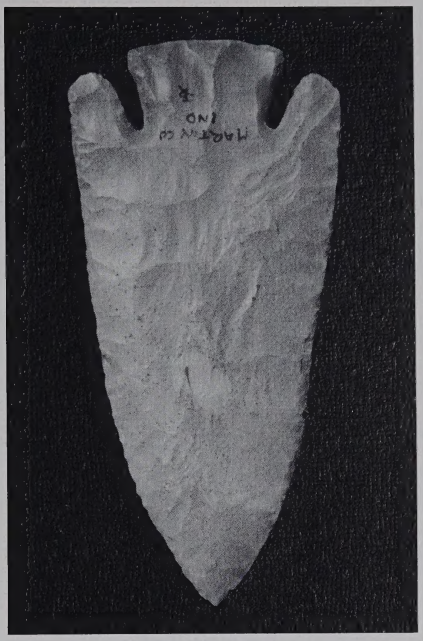
Lawrence Co., Tennessee

Dickson Co., Tennessee

Collection of Col. Jack C. Roberts, Tunica, Mississippi.

(All reproduced actual size)

Trigg Co., Kentucky



Martin Co., Indiana

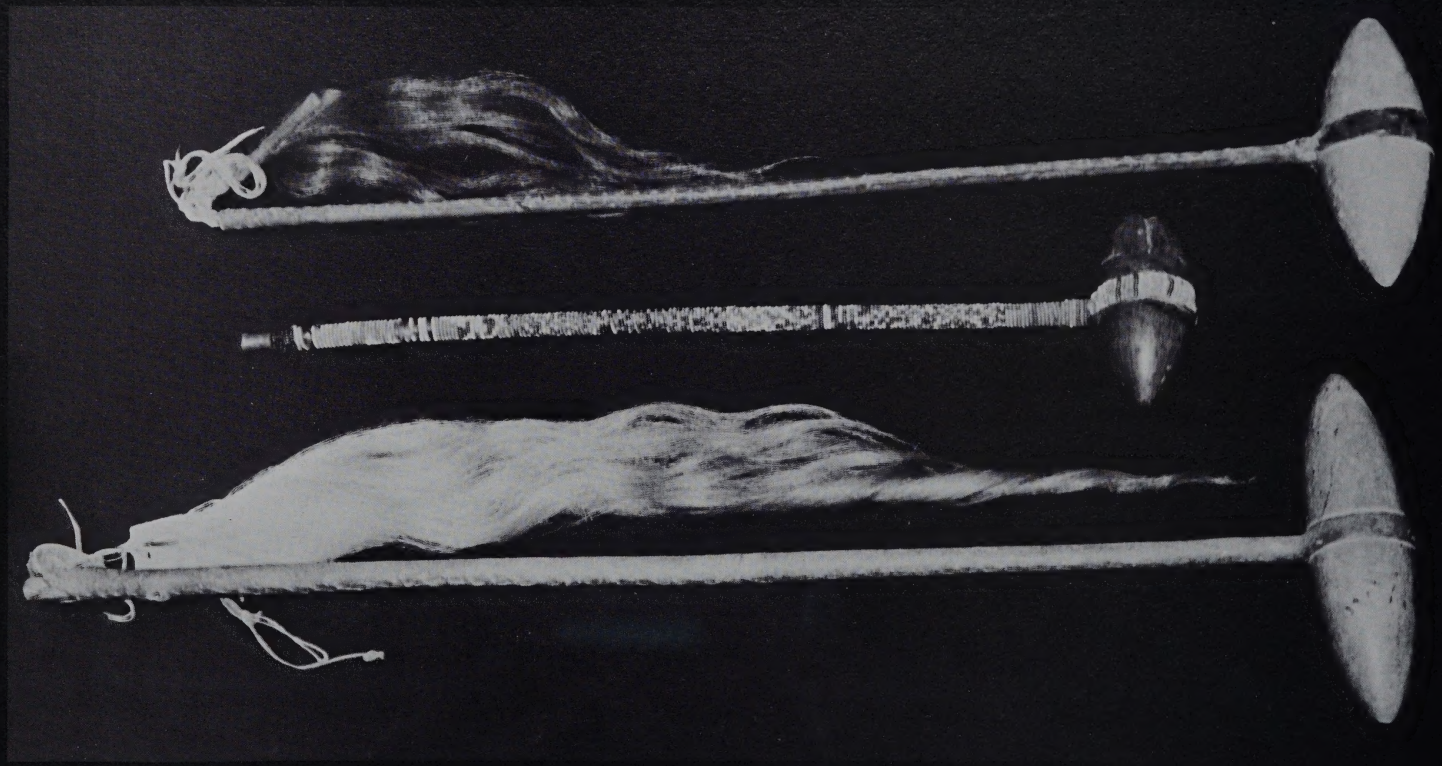
Lawrence Co., Indiana

Ohio Co., Kentucky

Collection of Col. Jack C. Roberts, Tunica, Mississippi.

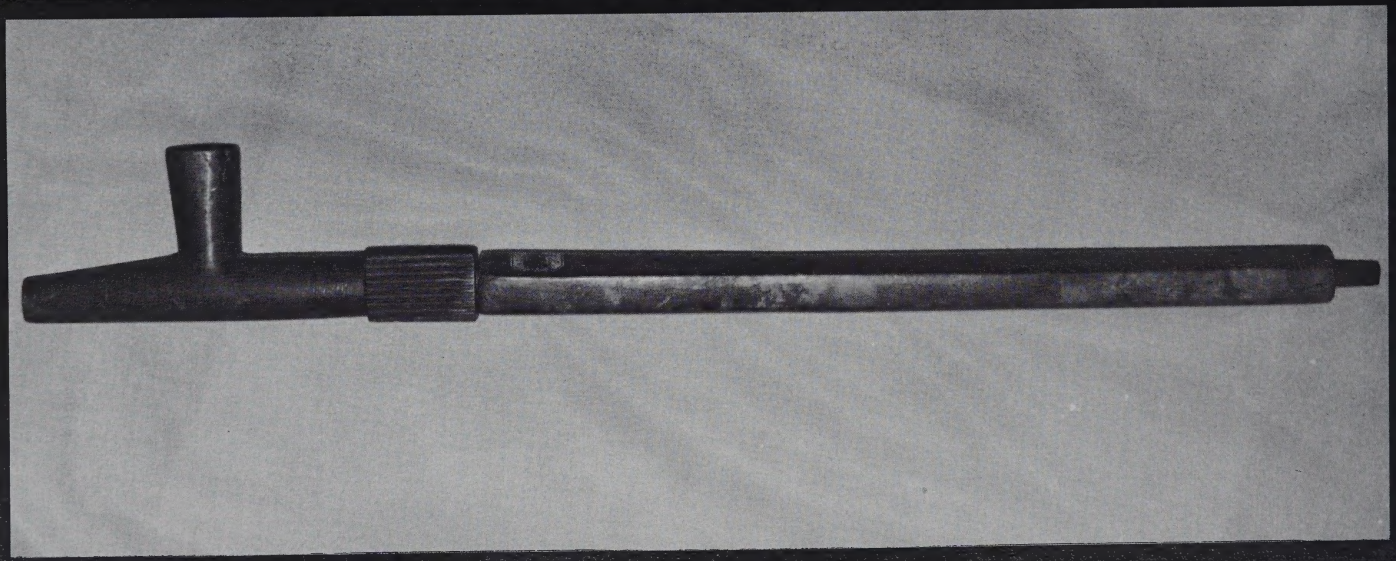
(*All reproduced actual size*)

HISTORIC INDIAN RELICS



Three Sioux war clubs. These are historic items of the Plains Indians. The pointed stone has a hole drilled for insertion of the wood stick handle. The wood is then wrapped with rawhide and allowed to dry. The rawhide shrinks around the wood and the stone making a very secure binding. The hair is horse hair decoration. The center war club is decorated with small beads called pony beads. The horse riding warrior would swing these long handled clubs very effectively, bringing down his foe.

A turn of the century catlinite pipe and catlinite stem. These calumets were used by the Plains and Central Indians from the early 1800s until the early 1900s. Many of this type of pipe were engraved and decorated with floral scenes or Indian pictorial carvings. Usually the engraved specimens were done by the white man for trade with the Indians or to be sold to the tourist trade.



MICHIGAN RELICS MISREPRESENTED— OHIO TROPHY AXES

By John Baldwin

Michigan is the geographic location for the heart of the birdstone area. Banded slate bannerstones, gorgets and pendants of the finest quality have been found in high quality across central and lower Michigan. An outstretched full wing steatite bird of prey great pipe was found in a mound near Detroit. Michigan's famed barbed axe and numerous ¾ grooved spotted poraxes, large celts and well made, highly polished granite axes literally dotted many early horse plowed fields. Some of the finest fluted points I know of were found in Michigan. Although the state is not known for the best made flint projectiles, on occasion, Michigan flint masterpieces comparable to the finest flint anywhere have been found. The Goodall Focus which is Michigan Hopewell, was a heavily populated extension of Southern Hopewell. It appears to have apexed later and is represented by many mound earthworks scattered through the West central part of the state. This arm of Hopewell left behind classic cultural relics that have been both professionally and nonprofessionally excavated. Many of these relics are of the highest artform quality.

The Adena peoples' presence is solidly evident by the vast scattering of their distinctively shaped spears, tube pipes and cultural identity gorgets and pendants. A respectable quantity of Ohio origin material, oval Adena blades in caches, have been found. Adena, Red Ocher culture and Glacial Kame related turkey tail points and type points are numerous Michigan finds. Some of the finest made classic turkey tails that I know of have been found in Michigan. The sandle sole gorget of slate or shell, the elongated birdstone and copper relics of the Archaic Glacial Kame people is heavily concentrated throughout the state and if a comprehensive study were done the facts may show Glacial Kame and Michigan are synonymous.

Of course the prehistoric owners of these relics didn't know our state and county boundaries, and with no television to watch, who cared where you were anyway. The point of this paper is just to let you know you may have a favorite relic marked Ohio or Indiana in your collection that was prehistorically made and later found in Michigan. Several of the oldtime relic dealers chuckled about the vast quantity of Michigan relics they acquired and resold in Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois and Ohio and later saw those same relics re-labled as being from the new owners' state. It is well rumored and I've been personally told by the seller of Michigan relics that a portion of the Dr. Gordon Meuser relics currently labled as Ohio were found and purchased in Michigan.

I'm an advocate of true documentation. I can't solve the problem of the past but hope to prevent its occurrance in the future. I assess and analyze why this happened as being directly do to monitary gain. At a time when relics were being sold for the express purpose of making a living, all the dollar buyers were South Centrally located. Most wanted local material. Michigan was a wealth of material, housed in small obscure collections with the large collectors either liquidating or not paying comparable Southern prices. With the exception of Don Boudeman of Kalamazoo, the Michigan collectors of the period "1930, 1940, 1950's" kept a low profile and did not publish. Joseph Ringeisen, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dr. Rollin Bunch, Muncie, Indiana, and Captain "Cap" Johnson from Johnson City, Tennessee, frequented Michigan, as did commissioned relic pickers and dealers anxious to either fill their collections with choice relics or their pockets with dollars from relic sales.

All of the above is fine with me as long as the true documentation had continued with the relic; it didn't. Most that have misrepresented proviences will never be known or changed. Two misrepresented Michigan relics recently came to light at the Charles Smith of Modoc, Indiana, second relic auction. The first was a non-Smith relic, sold as an addition, that had an Ohio provience in Dr. Meuser's hand. Careful examination of this steatite Adena tube pipe revealed the remanent of Don Boudeman's Michigan stamp. An attempt had been made to remove this tag, however enough remains as proof positive of the relic's Michigan origin. The sale bill, Smith catalog card, and auction relic card featuring the Dr. Rollin Bunch Ohio trophy axe all read, "found in Ohio." Easily visible in black ink on the poll are the printed letters ER. I recognized these as Don Boudeman's purchase price code. Careful examination hence knowing Boudeman once owned this relic, revealed that above the ER, deliberately removed but visible, are the words EATON CO. and a third printed word that under black light reads, MICH. With Bunch and his pickers buying from Boudeman and the Boudeman assembledge being completed long before the Smith collection, I must go with the Michigan provience as being the reliable data. To some, an Ohio provience on an Ohio trophy axe may be more valuable. To me, the truth is the valuable and important factor. I'm not accusing or blaming anyone, only relating that I'm pleased to have uncovered the true history. Documentation is only valuable if it is undisputable.

The Ohio trophy axe is a rare prehistoric artform relic. Only about 25 highly polished well-defined axes exist. Possibly not many more than 100 of this relic type are in collections. A few of the top examples have been found outside Ohio. Indiana and Kentucky have each produced several. The Ohio trophy axe pictured in the Payne sale book is clearly marked, ILL-RIV.-CARROLTON. Is this tag, collection or provience information? Judge Claude U. Stone and

later owners tagged and published it as Ohio. The 1936 and prior tagging by Ed Payne is possible evidence that Illinois was the location of find of one of the best of the Ohio trophy axes.

What was the Ohio trophy axe? My speculation, based on my observations and examinations, is as follows. Just about all are made of quartz, gneiss or sandstone of extraordinary color. Some have blunt cutting edges. All finished specimens were highly polished over their entire surface. All this adds to the non-utilitarian use factor which was noted long before me or they wouldn't have been called trophy axes. There are four basic shape variations; full groove straight bit, full groove flared bit, ¾ groove straight bit and ¾ groove flared bit. All the above and my romantic image of prehistoric man conjures the speculative image of a favorite defense weapon. A first choice weapon used to stand and defend oneself and loved ones from animal or human invasion. A weapon of great ceremonial significance. A first choice weapon carried and used in agressive hand to hand combat. All Ohio trophy axes are presumably of the same time period, made and used by a select few or small cultural group.

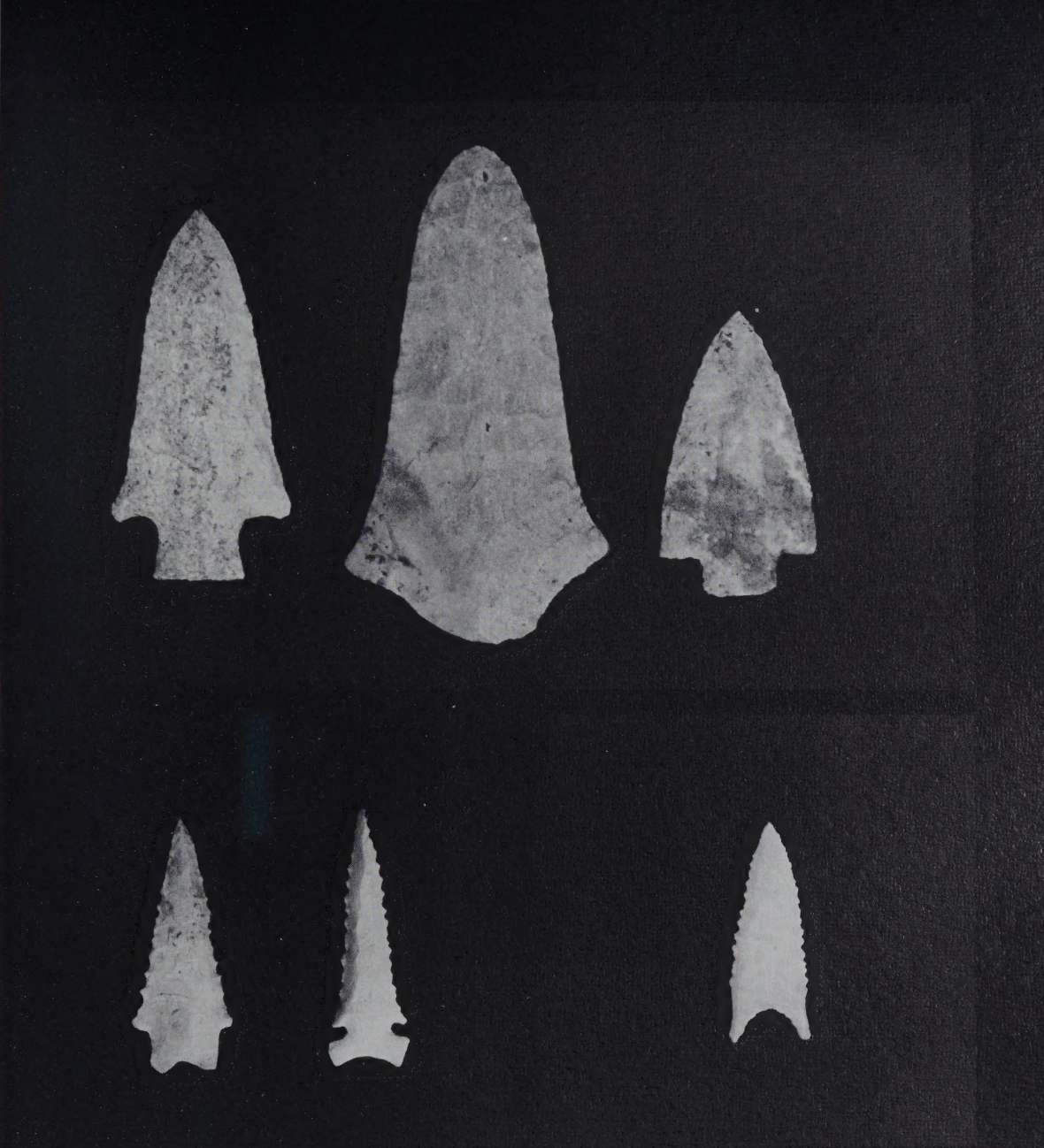
A rough stick as opposed to a carefully made decorated handle and a common grooved stone secured at the end of the stick would have served the same purpose. The Ohio trophy axe in my opinion is paralled by our modern day elaborate custom made knife or gold inlayed, engraved fancy wood, high grade hunting rifle. A plain gun serves the same purpose, however, the pride and prestige of ownership are not the same. If the small number of Ohio trophy axes thus far found truly represents a proportionate rareness, then this quantity may be too small an occurrence for us to really determine cultural and usage paralles. Until something more substantial comes along, I like to invision that the Ohio trophy axe was wielded with the strength of man's arm along with the strength of his thoughts, that this precious, carefully created weapon would give him the power to endure and win.

Ohio Trophy Axe—Eaton County, Michigan. Gold, orange and black gneiss, Ex Dr. Rollin Bunch, Ex Charles C. Smith Collections. Information about this axe may be read in the accompanying article.

Collection of John Baldwin, West Olive, Michigan

Pick exhibiting outstanding symmetry. Found by Ernie Brown near Eastport, in Tischomingo County, Mississippi, in 1971.

Collection of J. Neal Brown, Jackson, Mississippi

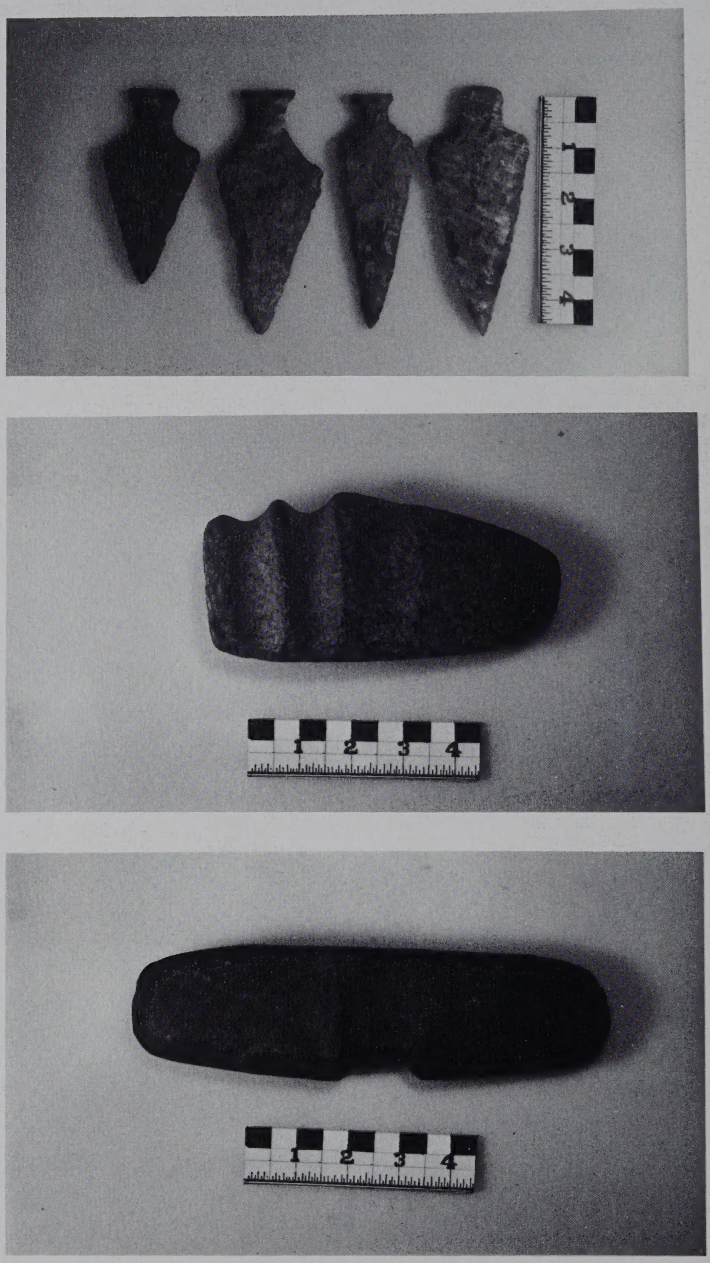


Two Archaic stemmed and a large blade found in Screven County, Georgia. The largest piece measures 5½ inches.

An Archaic bevel and a Kirk serrated point. The bevel measures 3¼ inches and was found in Screven County, Georgia. The Kirk point was found in Burke County, Georgia.

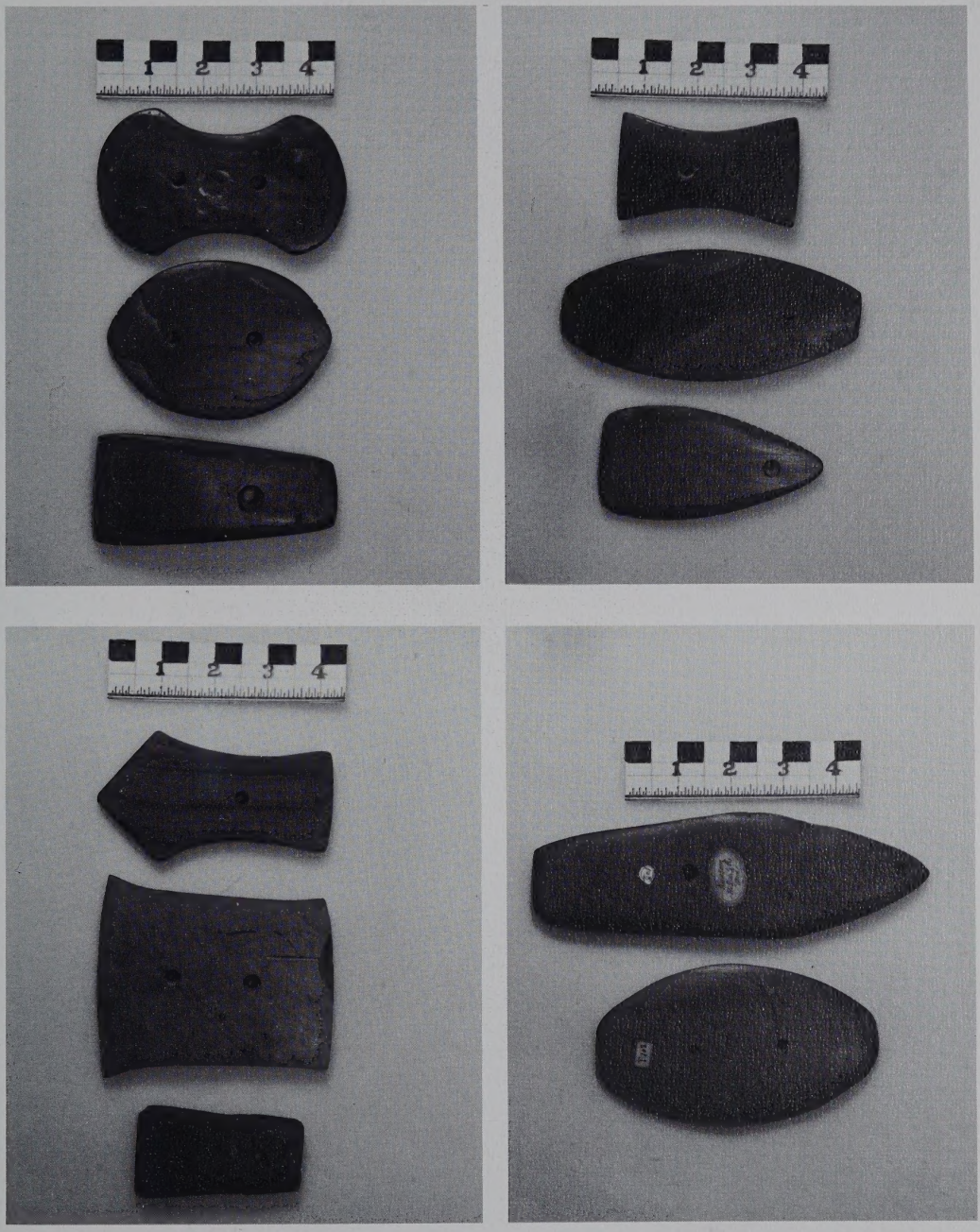
A Dalton point found in Screven County, Georgia measuring slightly less than 3 inches.

Collection of James Roshto, Statesboro, Georgia



TOP: Four Astubula points of Ohio material. CENTER: A granite double grooved axe. BOTTOM: A double bitted axe. These were all originally collected by Dave Warner and sold at his Estate Auction.

Collection of Barry Goodwin, Coldwater, Michigan



Eleven fine banded slate gorgets and pendants. All found in Michigan.

Collection of Barry Goodwin, Coldwater, Michigan

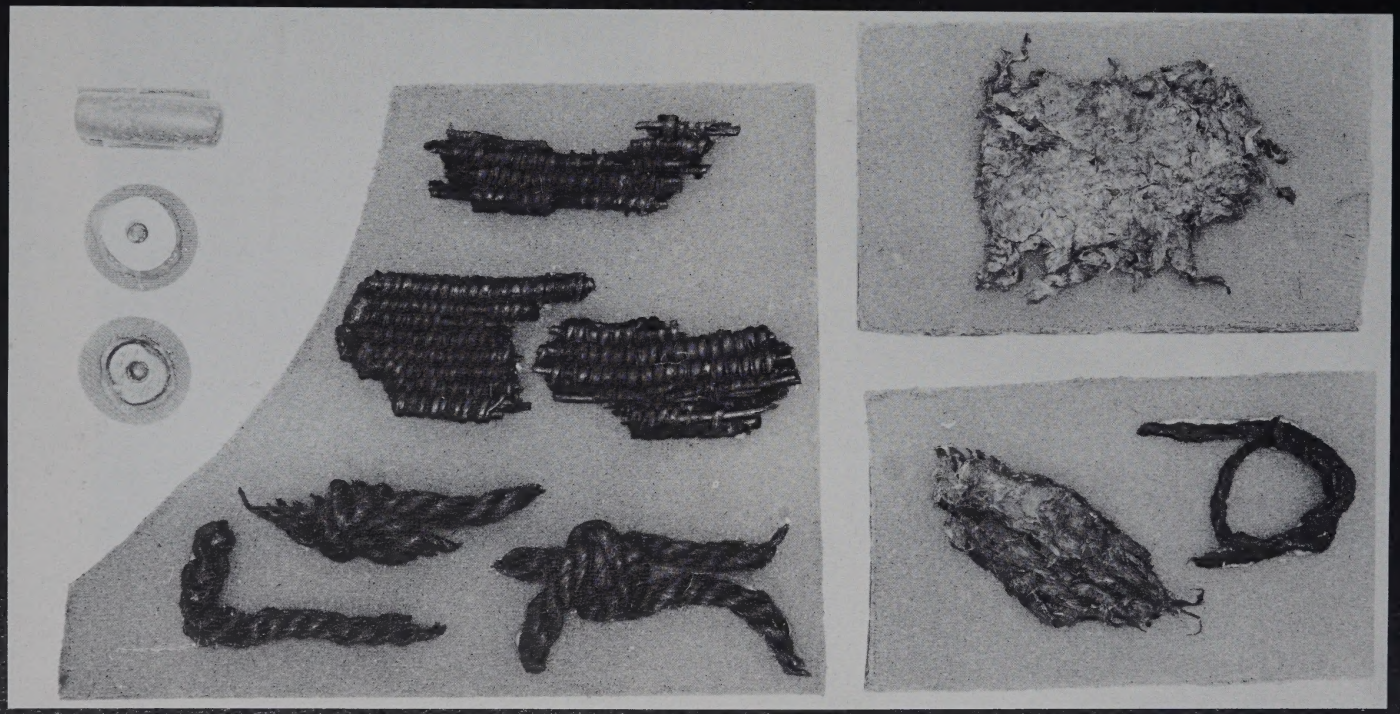
SPIRO MOUND

FACING PAGE: One of five blades found at the Spiro Mound by C.W. Cooperider in 1935. LeFlore County, Oklahoma. Earl C. Townsend Jr. purchased these blades in 1951 from Cooperider. In April of 1953 they were sold to David Warner, Howe, Indiana. This blade then sold at the first Warner estate auction June 1983. It is 13½ inches long. It was made from a heat treated Kay County Chert that has taken on the colors tan, cream, pink, red, yellow, orange and brown. All these blades were broken or ceremonially killed just prior to burial. The blade is reglued and this one has no restoration.

Collection of John Baldwin, West Olive, Michigan.

THIS PAGE: Several pieces of basket material and some braided twine. At the right is a photo of woven fabric and at the left are three small shell beads. All were excavated from the Spiro Mound, LeFlore County, Oklahoma.

Collection of Gordon Hart, Bluffton, Indiana



POTTERY REPAIR BY THE INDIAN

by George W. Casteel, Memphis, Tennessee

I have seen examples where the Indian has altered pottery vessels. I suspect many times it was as a result of a break or to adapt it to certain usage. Some examples are making bowls from bottles, shortening necks on bottles and shortening rims on deep bowls.

During the winter 1969-70 in Lee County, Arkansas, I uncovered at least three vessels which show repair. They were bowls. All had broken to a large degree after the Indian had buried them, but upon reassembling them, it became apparent where the original break had occurred and the measures used to repair them.

Figure 1 is a bowl of plain gray ware. When the pieces were being washed and glued up I noticed two holes had been drilled near the rim about ¾ inch on either side of a crack and where both drilled on the same plane, there are also 3 evenly spaced notches on the rim. The holes were drilled and the notches carved after firing and not molded into the original ceramic paste. Closer inspection revealed a more or less square shaped piece approximately 3½ inches by 3½ inches, broken out of the bottom of the bowl. I believe what happened is that the Indian ran fiber string material through the two holes and tied it firmly to keep the crack from widening and also ran string material across the top and underneath the bowl to secure and support the piece in the bottom of the bowl which at that time may not have been completely broken out.

After repair of this type the vessel could no longer hold liquid but could have been used for storing nuts and berries or containing semi-solid items.

Figure 2 is also a bowl of gray ware. This vessel bore rim decorations fashioned while in a plastic state. It also had a rim crack with the holes drilled on either side and on the same plane for tying the crack together. No other repair was noted.

Figure 3 is a bowl of red painted ware with a rim crack and the two drilled holes for repair; however, there is one noticeable difference from the drilling of the other two. One hole was drilled slightly lower than the other. I believe this to be of significance, possibly to correct a warp which occurred after the break.

All the above vessels were from separate burials at the same site.

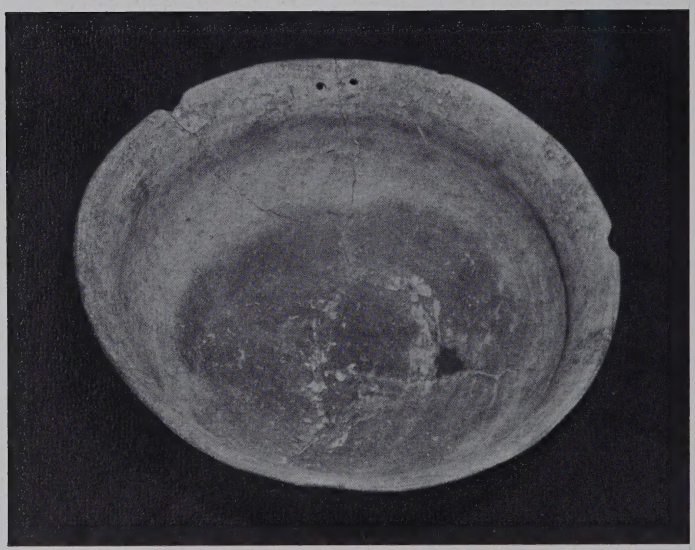


Figure 1
(10¼ inches wide, 3¾ inches deep.)

Figure 2
(9 inches wide, 3 inches deep.)

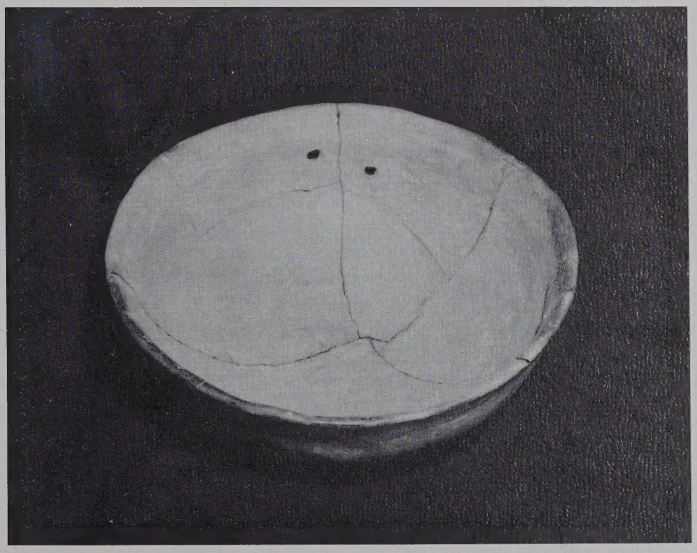


Figure 3
(9½ inches wide, 3½ inches deep.)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

Three members of the Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc., made generous contributions to the Society after the losses suffered in the tornado of last spring, which devastated the Society's supply of back issues:

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